

BDCP Goals and Objectives

Outstanding Issues - Principles and Next Steps – NGO Draft

Principles

- Goals and objectives at the species level should be based on the life history requirements, population viability characteristics, and extinction risk for each covered species.
- Goals and objectives at the community and ecosystem levels should be linked whenever possible to corresponding life history, population viability and extinction risk parameters for covered species. Where linkages are uncertain, community and ecosystem metrics should be based on simulation of natural patterns, reference to similar conditions, and precautionary approaches.
- Objectives should be quantitative whenever possible.
- Given the list of terrestrial species, the list of covered ecosystems and natural communities should be expanded and include goals and objectives relative to those new systems. For terrestrial species, goals and objectives should also include extent of occupied habitat and where restoration and management needs exist for each species.
- A matrix of objectives for each covered species should be prepared relating specific objectives to specific life history, population viability and extinction risk parameters.
- Goals and objectives should be designed to achieve recovery of covered species. These metrics should not reflect the relative contribution of specific parties to the BDCP, but rather the desired outcome of overall implementation of the plan by all parties (including PREs, government agencies, and third parties). The metrics are intended to inform evaluation of the efficacy of the overall plan and to guide the adaptive management decision-making process.

Next Steps

- The federal and state resource agencies should be requested to identify draft recovery goals and objectives at all scales suitable for the overall plan to achieve.
- A group of experts in covered species biology, Delta ecology, and ecological risk assessment should be convened to review and refine the BDCP stressor analysis and draft goals and objectives prepared by consultant team and resource agencies.
- A group of experts in biology of Delta terrestrial species should also be convened to guide development of appropriate goals and objectives for terrestrial species at all hierarchical levels.

- Goals and objectives for species covered in other regional HCP/NCCPs adjacent to the plan area should be reviewed for consistency with those plans' conservation targets and strategies.